



Landsat World Update

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LANDSAT PROGRAM STATUS - Landsats 4 and 5 continue to operate nominally. The pace of negotiations between NOAA/Department of Commerce and EOSAT has increased significantly, with resolution of the Landsat 6 contract expected before the April 1 deadline. In addition, NOAA and the U.S. Air Force are currently working towards a firm launch date and final cost figure for a Titan II launch.

POLLS REFLECT SUPPORT FOR U.S. SPACE PROGRAM - Polls conducted by two major news organizations in January show **strong public support for U.S. space programs**. A CBS/New York Times poll showed that 66% of the respondents felt that the Space Shuttle was worth continuing, and nearly half of the respondents felt that the U.S. should spend as much or more than is currently spent on space exploration in general.

A USA Today poll showed that almost half of their respondents felt that the nation's effort to put the U.S. back into space were "just about right," and another 39% felt that the U.S. was moving "too slow." A majority of those questioned (59%) also felt that the technology used for manned space flight was a good use of natural resources. (source: Spacecause)

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY SUPPORTS LANDSAT - Recent letters from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) have called for continued U.S. support of Landsat and future civil land and ocean remote sensing programs. The association represents over 40,000 oil and gas professionals. In a letter to the Secretary of Commerce, AAPG President Lawrence W. Funkhouser states, "Not only does [the Landsat] program currently address civilian, national security and foreign interests of the U.S. government, it also serves the U.S. economic interests by contributing to the further development of supplies of global energy and mineral resources which are and will continue to be of critical importance to a strong U.S. economy."

FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (FEWS) - The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has recently renewed its efforts to provide early warning information for areas of drought-stricken Africa. The FEWS program, which incorporates satellite data analysis and ground studies, was begun in 1985 during record international relief efforts. Landsat data from Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan, Mozambique and Ethiopia are being collected and used in conjunction with NOAA AVHRR data to provide vegetation and moisture information, to help analysts detect developments which will allow for timely response by government agencies. USAID recently decided to make FEWS a regular part of its Africa bureau programs, and has begun plans for a 5-year study. (source: Science, 1-15-88)

THAILAND LANDSAT STATION UPGRADE - In December 1987 the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) completed an upgrade of the Landsat Receiving Station in Bangkok. Macdonald Dettwiler (Vancouver, Canada) has added TM capability to the existing system. With this upgrade, 12 of the 15 online Landsat receiving stations have TM capability.

NEW LANDSAT PRODUCT AND SERVICES DIRECTORY AVAILABLE - The United States Edition of the Directory of Landsat-Related Products and Services, 1988, will be available from EOSAT in March. The Directory is a one-stop guide to image processing, geographic information systems, interpretation and photo services for Landsat users. The **122 firms listed** provide services in a wide array of applications areas, including land use, agriculture/crop analysis, forestry, coastal studies, oceanography, hydrology, engineering, cartography and media use.

The Directory can be obtained at no charge by calling or writing to EOSAT, 4300 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland USA 20706; phone (301) 552-0500 or (800) 344-9933.

CALMIT UNDER DEVELOPMENT IN NEBRASKA - New applications of Landsat technology are being encouraged by the development of the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT). The Center is located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with stated objectives of becoming a center of excellence in geographic information technologies.

To address land management issues, CALMIT uses specific applications of space-age technology. They include remote sensing techniques, digital image processing, geographic information systems and automated cartography systems.

CALMIT goals include collaboration with regional universities, assistance for the public and private sector to computerize earth-science information, and enhancement of educational opportunities by stimulating interdisciplinary research. Its founders believe that CALMIT will soon contribute significantly to resource management, scientific education and economic development in the Midwest.

For additional information about CALMIT, contact Donald C. Rundquist, Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 113 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0517. (source: Kansas Applied Remote Sensing Newsletter)

REMOTE SENSING/HYDROGEOLOGY APPLICATIONS COURSE - A short course which concentrates on sensing techniques for groundwater-related investigations is being offered by the National Water Well Association (NWWA). The course will be held March 8-10 at the Baltimore Marriott Hotel, Inner Harbor, and costs \$545 for NWWA members and \$595 for non-members. Contact NWWA Education Department, 6375 Riverside Drive, Dublin, OH 43017; phone (614) 761-1711.

SATELLITE IMAGE MAP OF KANSAS CITY AVAILABLE - The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) of Kansas City, Missouri has produced a wall size Landsat 5 TM image map of the metropolitan Kansas City area, and is offering four-color copies to the public. The map was produced by MARC's Research Data Center and the U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the Kansas City Area Economic Development Council, and the Kansas City Development Department.

The map's scale is one inch equals 100,000 feet, and can be purchased for \$5.00 by calling MARC at (816) 474-4240, or send a check addressed to Mid-America Regional Council, 300 Rivergate Center, 600 Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri, USA 64105-1536. (source: Kansas Applied Remote Sensing Newsletter)

LANDSAT WORLD UPDATE is a bi-weekly report to the earth remote sensing community. It contains timely information about the Landsat program, including the status of Landsats 4 and 5 and the progress of the next-generation satellite development program.

LANDSAT WORLD UPDATE is provided by EOSAT as a service to the remote sensing community, and no restrictions are placed on its reproduction. Any questions, comments or additions to the Update should be directed by mail to EOSAT Public Affairs Office, 4300 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706, U.S.A. or by telephone to (301) 552-0547 or (800) 344-9933 ext 547.
